

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 26209 091453Z

64

ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEA-10 SCCT-01 SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05

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R 091445Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3993

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEC

SUBJ: SELF STYLED ARAB EMISSARY

1. ON OCTOBER 8, 1975, A MAN, WHO APPEARED TO BE OF ARABIC EXTRACTION ENTERED THE EMBASSY LOBBY AND SAID TO THE RECEPTIONIST THAT HE WAS THE BROTHER OF SIRHAN SIRHAN, THE ASSASIN OF ROBERT F. KENNEDY, AND THAT HE WANTED TO TELL PRESIDENT FORD THAT HE SHOULD RELEASE HIS BROTHER FROM PRISON. THE RECEPTIONIST THEN CONVERSED WITH HIM IN ARABIC, BECAUSE HIS KNOWLEDGE OF FRENCH WAS NOT VERY GOOD. THE MAN SAID HE WAS A DELEGATE OF THE FEDAYEEN AND A FRIEND OF THE FAMILY OF SIRHAN SIRHAN AND WAS REPRESENTING THE FAMILY IN THIS MATTER.

HE TOLD THE RECEPTIONISTTHAT HE HAD FRIENDS WITH HIM IN PARIS AND THAT THEY HAD ARMS. HE HIMSELF WAS NOT ARMED .

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THE MAN LATER STATED THAT HE WANTED TO SPEAK TO THE AMBASSADOR ABOUT THIS MATTER. HE PRODUCED PICTURES OF WHAT HE SAID WERE TERRORISTS AND A PICTURE OF YASIR ARAFAT, WHICH COULD NOT BE EXAMINED CLOSELY. HE COMMENTED THAT HE DID NOT IN-

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PAGE 02 PARIS 26209 091453Z

TEND TO BOMB THE EMBASSY AND THAT HE DID NOT MEAN

ANY OF HIS STATEMENTS AS A THREAT. HE DID MENTION, HOWEVER, HOW EASY IT WOULD BE FOR TERRORISTS WITH AUTOMATIC WEAPONS TO GET IN AND OVERCOME THE MARINE SECURITY GUARD. HE SAID, AND A TICKET HE WAS CARRYING ALTHOUGH MOSTLY ILLEGIBLE, CONFIRMED THAT HE HAD COME FROM ROTTERDAM AND WAS HEADING FOR POLAND.

ONE EMBASSY OFFICE WHO WAS TALKING TO THE RECEPTIONIST WHEN THE MAN APPEARED AND WHO ENGAGED HIM IN PRELIMINARY QUESTIONNING WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE RECEPTIONIST THOUGHT HE WAS COHERENT AND THAT HE SPOKE KNOWLEDGABLY OF PAST TERRORIST ACTIONS. ANOTHER EMBASSY OFFICER WHO SPOKE TO HIM SUBSEQUENTLY IN FRENCH, THOUGHT HE MIGHT BE DERANGED BECAUSE HIS RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS DID NOT ALWAYS MAKE SENSE, ALTHOUGH HIS FRENCH WAS NOT FLUENT OR PRACTICED.

THE RECEPTIONIST SAID LATER THAT THE MAN SHOWED HER WHAT HE CLAIMED WAS A TRAVEL ORDER, WHICH WAS TYPED IN RANDOM LETTERS IN AN UNFAMILIAR LANGUAGE WHICH MIGHT HAVE BEEN DUTCH. SHE REMEMBERED SEEING THE WORD GOBEN ON THE SHEET AS WELL AS THE NAME ABDULLAH ABBASH. THE MAN GAVE HIS NAME, AT ONE POINT, AS ABDULLAH EL HABAS. WHILE TALKING TO THE RECEPTIONIST, THE MAN SAID HIS COMPANIONS WERE STAYING IN A MOSQUE AND, LATER, ASKED HER TO CALL THE CONSUL AT THE LIBYAN EMBASSY SO HE COULD "ASK HIM TO PREPARE FOOD FOR US". THE RECEPTIONIST THOUGHT THE MAN MIGHT HAVE BEEN DRUGGED OR ACTING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF DRUGS.

THE FRENCH POLICE AT THE MAIN VEHICLE GATES WERE NOTIFIED OF THE EVENTS TAKING PLACE AND THE POLICE STATION IN THE 8TH ARRONDISSEMENT WAS CALLED AND REQUESTED TO PROVIDE PLAIN CLOTHES SURVEILLANCE OF THE MAN AS HE LEFT THE CHANCERY. THE POLICE, HOWEVER, DECIDED TO TAKE HIM INTO CUSTODY AS HE LEFT THE EMBASSY GROUNDS.

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PAGE 03 PARIS 26209 091453Z

WE WILL REPORT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND IDENTIFICATION DATA WHEN THE POLICE MAKE IT AVAILABLE.
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